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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/811,149	03/16/2001	Makoto Ikeda	12052.41US01	5803
23552	7590	11/19/2004	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC			WORKU, NEGUSSIE	
P.O. BOX 2903			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			2626	

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/811,149	Applicant(s) IKEDA, MAKOTO	
	Examiner Negussie Worku	Art Unit 2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 4 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being an improper multiple dependent claim because a multiple dependent claim can not depend ^{on another} on ~~another~~ multiple dependent claim, see MPEP608.01.

Reasons for indicating Allowable subject matter

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: With respect to claims 1-4, the cited prior art does not teach or disclose a line illuminating device having two light guides for guiding light from a light source incident from an end surface in the longitudinal direction and for emitting the light from an emission plane formed along the longitudinal direction, characterized in that these light guides are arranged in such a manner that the light emitted from the emission plane of each light guide irradiates the same area of a document-reading plane, and one light guide is provided, at one end of its longitudinal direction, with a first light emitting source, while the other

Art Unit: 2626

light guide is provided, at the other end of its longitudinal direction, with a second light-emitting source.

With respect to claim 5-8, the cited prior art does not disclose or teach a line illuminating device having a pair of light guides arranged to guide light from a light source incident from an end surface in the longitudinal direction and to scatter the incident light at light scattering patterns formed intermittently over the longitudinal direction so as to irradiate the same area of a document- reading plane, characterized in that these light guides are alternately arranged so that the light-scattering patterns formed on one light guide compensate for the shortage of light-scattering patterns formed on the other light guide.

With respect to claim 9, the cited reference does not teach or disclose a line-illuminating device having a light guide for guiding light from a light source incident from an end surface in the longitudinal direction and for scattering the light at light-scattering patterns formed along the longitudinal direction to emit this light from an emission plane, this line illuminating device being provided with two line illuminating unit for housing the light guide in a casing, characterized in that each line illuminating unit is arranged in such a manner that the light emitted from the emission plane of each light guide irradiates the same area of the document-reading plane, and the light guide casing has at least an outside section treated to control scattering and reflection of the light.

With respect to claim 10, the cited reference does not teach or disclose a line-illuminating device having a light guide for conducting light from a light source incident from an end surface in the longitudinal direction and for scattering the light at light-scattering patterns formed along the longitudinal direction to emit this light from an emission plane, this line illuminating device being provided with two line illuminating units for housing the light guide in a casing, characterized in that each line illuminating unit is arranged in such a manner that the light emitted from the emission plane of each light guide irradiates the same area of a document-reading plane, and the light guide casing has at least an outside section covered by a member for controlling scattering and reflection of the light.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Negussie Worku whose telephone number is 305-5441. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am-4pm.

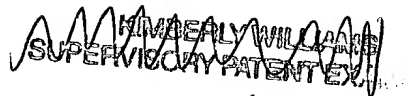
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on 703-305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2626

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Negussie Worku
11/11/04


KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
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